

House Resolution 627

By: Representatives Burns of the 157th, Stephens of the 164th, Greene of the 149th, Keen of the 179th, Burkhalter of the 50th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 275th anniversary of the arrival of the first Salzburgers in Georgia,
2 commending the Georgia Salzburger Society, and inviting them to appear before the House
3 of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's resulted in the establishment of
5 Protestant churches in Germany, Switzerland, England, Scotland, and Scandinavian
6 countries; and

7 WHEREAS, the rulers of the Province of Salzburg were opposed to the Lutheran teachings
8 of the Protestant churches, and in 1731, 150 men known as the Saltlickers gathered in
9 Salzburg and swore to stand by their Protestant beliefs; and

10 WHEREAS, as a result of this fateful meeting, the Archbishop of Salzburg issued the Edict
11 of Expulsion, ordering all citizens of Salzburg who followed the teachings of Martin Luther
12 into exile; and

13 WHEREAS, 20,000 Protestants were expelled from Salzburg for their religious beliefs, with
14 16,000 fleeing to East Prussia, 3,500 settling throughout Europe, 200 moving to Holland, and
15 300 making their way to the United States of America; and

16 WHEREAS, on March 12, 1734, the first Salzburgers arrived in Savannah, Georgia, from
17 Salzburg, which is now known as Austria; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Salzburger Society was founded in 1925 with the mission to
19 preserve the heritage and history of the early Salzburger settlers; and

20 WHEREAS, today the Georgia Salzburger Society has a membership of nearly 1,800 and the
21 current president is Ann R. Purcell, a Salzburger descendant and a former member of the
22 Georgia General Assembly; and

23 WHEREAS, this year marks the 275th anniversary of the Salzburger arrival in Georgia in
24 pursuit of religious freedom.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize the 275th anniversary of the exiled Salzburger arrival
27 in the State of Georgia, commend the Georgia Salzburger Society for preserving the rich
28 heritage of these early settlers, and invite members of the Georgia Salzburger Society to
29 appear before the House of Representatives at an appropriate date and time to be determined
30 by the Speaker of the House.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Georgia Salzburger Society
33 President Ann R. Purcell.